

only Ohio, but also had the experience and understood how to get things done here in Washington. And that made Kevin Fitzpatrick a natural fit as my legislative director.

I have served on three committees during my 25 years here in Congress: Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, and Small Business. Kevin has had a profound impact on my policy agenda on all three committees over the years.

On Foreign Affairs, we have worked on more issues than I could possibly relate here, but some of our most significant accomplishments have been in advancing the relationship between the United States and our democratic ally, Taiwan, in the face of the existential threat posed by communist China. Kevin was instrumental in helping me create the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, along with former Congressmen Robert Wexler, Dana Rohrabacher, and then-Representative, now Senator SHERROD BROWN.

Over the years, we have pushed many pro-democracy and pro-Taiwan initiatives, one of the most significant being the Taiwan Travel Act, which will now allow diplomatic visits between top U.S. and Taiwanese officials.

Judiciary. Throughout his life, Kevin has been a warrior for the unborn. He has played a significant role in the promotion of pro-life legislative initiatives. Those efforts ultimately led to the most significant Federal pro-life legislation enacted since the infamous Roe v. Wade decision, the Federal ban on partial birth abortion signed into law by President Bush back in 2003 and ultimately upheld to be constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. Kevin was front and center in those efforts, and I know he is as proud of that accomplishment as I am.

In recent years, Kevin has led the Small Business Committee as my staff director. In that role, Kevin has put together what I believe to be the best committee staff on the Hill: Jan Oliver, Joe Hartz, Rob Yavor, Delia Barr, Allison Kerman, Vivian Ling, and Rachel Emmons.

Perhaps the greatest testament to Kevin's leadership occurred earlier this year with the creation and implementation of the Paycheck Protection Program, or PPP. This critical program saved millions of small businesses across America that would otherwise have gone under during the COVID-19 pandemic, and most importantly saved over 50 million jobs.

Finally, during the course of Kevin Fitzpatrick's career, he has hired, trained, and mentored so many people currently working both on and off the Hill. He has shared his knowledge, his experience, and his commitment to improving our country with each and every one of them.

It will now be their turn to teach new staff members how to make the people's House truly work for the people.

They couldn't have had a better teacher, a better mentor, or a better example than Kevin Fitzpatrick.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Kevin for his service, his dedication, and his friendship. He will be missed.

THE NIGHTMARE IS ALMOST OVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to declare that our 4-year public nightmare is almost at an end.

Next month, Joe Biden will be sworn in as the 46th President after an honest, free, and fair election, and an ugly chapter in America's history will be over.

No more governing by tweet. No more constant lies. No more insulting our Nation while praising our enemies. No more incompetent family members conducting national policy. No more gross profiteering off of the Presidency. No more children in cages. No more promoting of white supremacy. No more attacks on American institutions like the FBI, the courts, schools, and the post office and so many others. No more payoffs. No more conspiracy theories. No more recounting ballots. And a future with no more coronavirus, hopefully.

For the last 4 years, we have been told to make America great. When Joseph R. Biden is sworn in as President of the United States, we can say that we finally did.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

ELECTION THOUGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we just wrapped up an election here, and we were told this election was about hatred and bias. I don't really know any haters on my campaign, and I don't think there is this huge amount of bias, in general, in this country that some people tried to make this election about.

Recently, I did have a woman come up to me from my district talking about real bias and perhaps hatred in America. She talked about her children who went to college. Her and her husband got married before they had children, and both worked hard and made an average income. Both of her kids had about 30 or \$40,000 in student loan debt, and she had good kids who were working hard to pay off that debt.

But she felt that if her and her husband had not gotten married, the government probably would have given them something they couldn't get as married and working people. Her kids may have gotten \$30,000 plus in Pell Grants, and they were probably eligible for other grants. At least in the State of Wisconsin you would receive similar State grants, as well as be eligible for a work study program.

Unfortunately, her kids were not eligible for that, and at least she feels they are being significantly discriminated against, and hatred is being displayed by the American Government. Here is real hatred and real bias.

Is she right? Is there really U.S. Government hatred and bias against people who got married?

How did this happen? I have talked about this issue before, and people imply that maybe it happened by mistake, not just the Pell Grant program, but other government assistance programs just inadvertently sprung up and punished people who got married.

However, in this election I had a little bit of an eye-opener.

In this election we had Black Lives Matter get involved. If you read the website, which was eventually scrubbed or taken down in part about two months ago with a month left to go in the campaign, on its website it said, first of all, two of its three co-founders were trained Marxists, and secondly, it said one of their goals was to disrupt the western-prescribed nuclear family structure.

First of all, I think they are a little bit historically inaccurate. I think there are all sorts of cultures in the world, other than just European cultures, in which you have a wife and a husband and kids. But nevertheless, they clearly consider it a problem. And it doesn't surprise me that this group would have this on their website that they consider it a problem, since they were founded by two Marxists.

And when I think of Marxists, I think of three things: First of all, of course, I think of Socialism and the fact that government should own everything, and we shouldn't have lots of different people own lots of different businesses or different rental units or what have you. They want everything controlled by the government.

The other two things I always think of when I think of Marxism is: First of all, they hate God. And whether you are talking about countries in which Marxists take over, be it Red China, Vietnam, Russia, they follow Karl Marx in saying abolition of religion is demanded for the true happiness of people. So when I associate Marxism and people associating with such a group, I associate the hatred for God.

But the other thing we have got to remember is Karl Marx himself was very antifamily, and that is why I assume on the website it appeared that Black Lives Matter wants to disrupt the western-prescribed nuclear family.

So here is a group that I am sure cheers programs which penalizes people who are married and discriminates in favor of people who aren't married. And to my surprise, people did not run from this group.

To me, every politician should say for some groups, I am not going to ask for your help. Years ago, when I was in the State legislature, I fought the drug companies who I think are over-drugging our kids. I fought the drug companies who I think were prescribing too